



Real World Design Challenge Champions

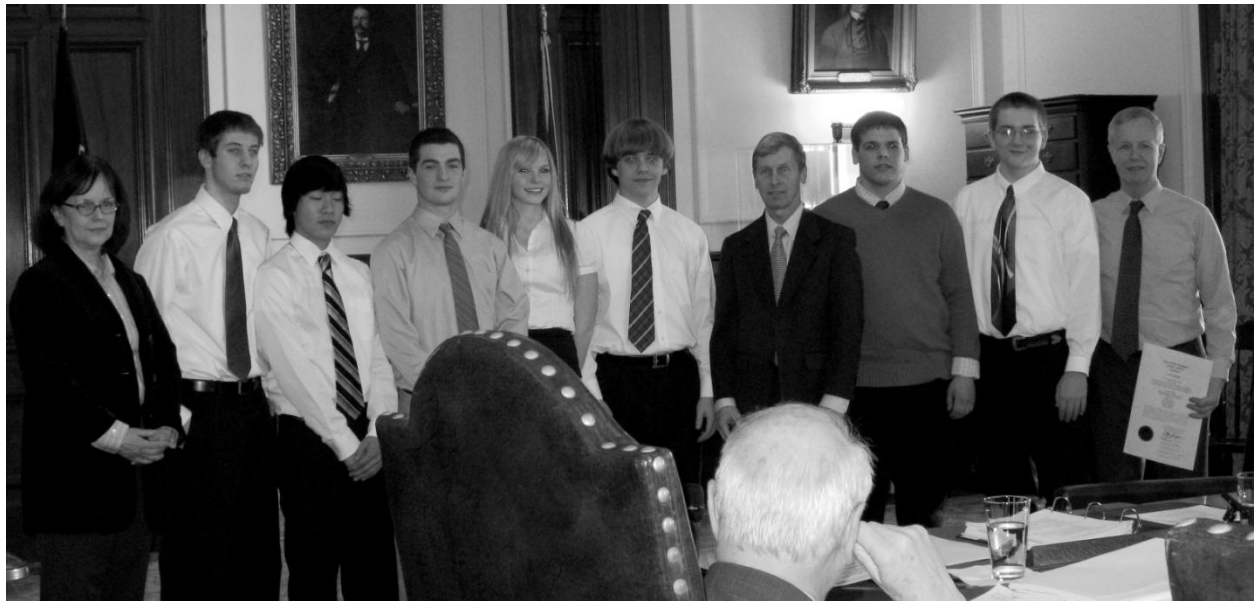
Governor John Lynch has announced that Plymouth Regional High School has won this year's New Hampshire Real World Design Challenge, an aerospace engineering competition that gives New Hampshire students the opportunity to solve a "real world" aviation design challenge. Students, Michael Buttolph, Aaron Dow, Nathan Grace, Eliza McKinnon, Erick Mieczkowski, Colin O'Brien, and Byron O'Donnell, coached by Thomas Duda, competed with other high school students from across the state in designing a next-generation wing of an aircraft using real professional tools.

"This year's State Challenge was particularly difficult. Winning the State Challenge distinguishes these students as being among the Nation's best and brightest" said Dr. Ralph K. Coppola, Real World Design Challenge Director and Senior Director Government & Strategic Education programs, PTC. The team is invited to compete in the National Challenge and will receive an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, DC in April where they will compete with the best and brightest from across the country for the top national honor.

The Real World Design Challenge is an annual high school competition run by a public-private partnership with the goal of sustainably increasing the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) workforce. The partners are focused on working within the context of the American educational system to transform STEM education in the United States by providing professional science and engineering and learning resources to students and teachers.

The Real World Design Challenge partners bring a broad base of resources and expertise from business, government, and academia. Throughout the pilot year, the partners have specifically focused on securing resources with high scaling costs. In fact, the 2009 competition brought more than a quarter-billion dollars in resources to schools, and the 2010 competition brought schools nearly a half billion dollars in resources. The Challenge is free to teachers and students. Each teacher gets \$1 million in professional engineering software and teams get access to professional mentors. Twenty-five governors have supported the "Governor's Challenge" at the state level. The National competition is held each year in Washington, DC.

"The Real World Design Challenge partnership helps address the growing industry demand for workers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). The Real World Design Challenge bridges the needs of the industry with the future of education. It teaches innovation, creativity, collaboration and other 21st Century skills using the expertise that industry, government and higher education have been perfecting for decades. With this real world approach to learning, we can keep our workforce strong and ensure America's prosperity for the future. These students will be the future innovators that will help keep America the world leader." Dr. Ralph K. Coppola, Director of the Real World Design Challenge & Director of Government & Strategic Education Programs for Programs at PTC.



Plymouth Regional High School Team honored with Governors Citation as 2011 RWDC State Champions